



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David J. Luneau, et al

Art Unit : 2642

Serial No. : 10/651,063

Examiner : William J. Deane Jr.

Filed : August 28, 2003

Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACQUIRING INFORMATION RELATING TO GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 2005

All of pending claims 1-29 stand rejected as obvious over a single reference, Chan, U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0235416.

In the present application, equipment such as a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) can place a call over a standard telephone line to an information server. In conjunction with the call, the information server receives information corresponding to the origin of the call. For instance, the caller-identification feature will tell the information server from what telephone number the NWR is calling. The information server can use that information (e.g., the area code and exchange) to determine the geographical location of the NWR, and from that to determine the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) code for that location. The SAME code is then sent back to the NWR, where it can be programmed into the NWR either manually or, preferably, automatically.

There is no need for the NWR user who is trying to set up the NWR for his geographical region to look up the appropriate SAME code in a table, such as in a manual or on the NOAA website. Nor is there any need for the user to navigate through a series of menus where he first selects his state, then his county, then the particular portion of the county in which he lives. The risk with these more user-intensive approaches is that the user makes an error somewhere along

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January 23, 2006
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the way and ultimately winds up inputting the wrong SAME code, with the attendant risk that he is then not notified when there is a weather emergency in his region. By contrast, in embodiments of the present invention, the user's telephone number is used to determine a single SAME code, which is then sent back to the NWR. If the SAME code is input automatically into the NWR, then the possibility of user error is reduced, if not eliminated entirely. Even if the user were to manually input the received SAME code into the NWR, the possibility of user error is greatly reduced by the reduction in the number of steps that the user must perform in the programming process.

There are three pending independent claims, claims 1, 16, and 24.

Independent claims 1 and 16 state that equipment for providing weather-related information places a telephone call to an information server. That information server receives "in conjunction with the telephone call, information corresponding to an origin of the telephone call." The received information is then processed "to generate data representative of geographical information," which data is then sent "to the equipment in conjunction with the telephone call." Independent claim 24 likewise recites "a data receiver circuit for receiving data representative of geographical information."

Applicants submit that Chan does not disclose, or suggest, several features of Applicants' claims. Chan is directed to a very different approach than Applicants'. In Chan, a complete index (or database) that correlates all geographical locations to all available SAME codes is maintained on the NWR itself. The user navigates through this index to locate his geographical location, and the NWR consults the index/database to determine the appropriate SAME code. To enable this extensive user interaction, the NWR has a visual indicator 46 (apparently a screen of some sort) so that the user can read the index, and a keypad so that the user can scroll through options, drill down through multi-layered menus, etc., all so that he can get his SAME code.

The Examiner in rejecting the claims over Chan cites the disclosure of paragraph 15. That paragraph concerns the ability to update the index by downloading update information from a "content server" over the Internet. Although Chan does not go into much detail about either this updating process or the content server, what this updating process apparently does is to add new geographical locations and their associated SAME codes to the index/database. It does not

obviate the need for the user to navigate through the index, drill down through menus, etc. to arrive at the appropriate SAME code.

There is nothing in this disclosure of Chan about providing the content server with "information corresponding to an origin of the telephone call" (or of the location of the NWR that made the request over the Internet for the update), as recited in claims 1 and 16. There likewise is no disclosure of "a data receiver circuit for receiving data representative of geographical information," as recited in claim 24.

To the contrary, it appears that the NWR in Chan receives the same update information from the content server *regardless of where the NWR is located when the update request is made*. Not so with the present invention. The NWR calls the information server. The information server receives information corresponding to the origin of the call, such as the caller-identification information of the number from which the NWR is calling. From that geographical information, the information server can pinpoint where the NWR is, and send it only the SAME code that it needs. This ability to tailor the downloaded information to the actual location of the NWR is entirely absent from Chan, because Chan lacks these features of Applicants' claims.

Consequently, the user in Chan's system must know where he is when programming his NWR. With the present invention, he does not. The information server figures it out for him. It also is not required (although certainly not precluded) that embodiments of Applicants' invention maintain a complete database of all SAME codes, or have a display screen and keypad, as disclosed in Chan to allow the user to navigate through the index.

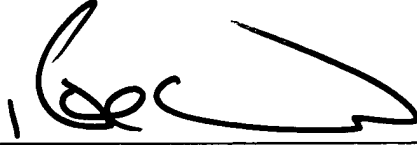
Applicants therefore submit that all claims remain in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Submitted herewith is a petition for a one-month extension of time (through and including January 22, 2006), together with a check for the required fee (\$60.00). Please apply any other charges, or make any credits, to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10200-016001.

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Attorney's Docket No.: 10200-016001

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt L. Glitzenstein', written over a horizontal line.

Kurt L. Glitzenstein
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Date: January 23, 2006

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